GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3321
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2017
Research Conducted on the Availability of Herbs
Lokhande Shri Sadashiv Kisan

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted or proposes to conduct any survey of forest and hilly areas of the country to find out the availability of herbs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants has made any efforts to meet the demands of herbs in the international market and earn foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES

(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a)&(b) Madam, CSIR is involved in survey of the forest and hilly areas of the country for assessment of indigenous medicinal herbs, to some extent. This includes exploration of mountain areas for medicinal plants with new therapeutic properties as well as known medicinal properties. CSIR constituent laboratories namely, CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow; CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu; CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT), Palampur; and CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow are involved in survey, collection and inventorization of medicinal and aromatic plants from different phyto-geographical regions of the country. CSIR-IIIM is involved in survey, collection and identification of Medicinal and aromatic plants in North Western Himalayas especially in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and maintaining Herbarium and Crude Drug repository. CSIR-IHBT is conducting floristic surveys primarily in Himachal Pradesh and created a database "himFlorIS" on distribution and status of flowering plant resources in western Himalaya. The database containing information on about 1575 plant species of therapeutic value dwelling in Indian Himalaya. CSIR-NBRI survey revealed 102 medicinal herbs in Kumaun Himalayan Region (Uttrakhand) region and 115 medicinal plants in Tons Valley (Garhwal Himalaya) region.

(c)&(d) CSIR-CIMAP is promoting cultivation of high yielding varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants in the country through trainings, demonstration, awareness camps, farmers' meet, etc. at regular intervals. Due to such efforts, several commodities such as mentha oil, lemongrass oil, senna, etc. are being produced in the country for meeting domestic requirement as well as for export purposes. Besides above, CSIR-CIMAP as medicinal plants focal point for India had also organized second meeting of medicinal plants focal points of Indian Ocean Rim Association Regional Centre for Science & Technology Transfer (IORA RCTT) at Lucknow during 18-19 March, 2015 in which delegates from the member countries including Bangladesh, South Africa, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Madagascar, Malaysia, Sultanate of Oman, Republic of Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Iran and India participated. IORA member states have unanimously resolved to make CSIR-CIMAP as coordination centre for the medicinal and aromatic plants activities of IORA to improve trade and commerce of medicinal plants and their products among the IORA member states. Similarly, CSIR-CIMAP and National Institute of Medicinal Material (NIMM), Hanoi has signed an agreement on 12th April, 2016 for promotion of cultivation of medicinal plants and their business globally for economic benefit of both the countries. Another meeting was held on 24th April, 2016 with the foreign buyers for promotion of export business of Indian essential oils/aroma chemicals during Asian Aroma Ingredients Congress & Expo (AAIC-2016) at Delhi.

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